

**CONFIDENTIAL**

20 March 1958

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: Inquiries Made to APD Regarding Possible Applications for a High Altitude Power Balloon**

1. The undersigned has had several conversations with [redacted], 25X1  
 APD, regarding the possible needs for high altitude powered balloons for support of projects which he is responsible for. In addition to the powered balloon question the discussion also covered the possible advantage of hitchhiking equipment on one of the man flights to very high altitudes that are scheduled in 1958 by the Navy and Air Force. The possibility of sponsoring a man flight was also briefly discussed.

2. Most of the equipment discussed is considered highly classified and the specifics should be avoided when possible. The equipment is generally associated with missile detection and tracking. The substance of the discussion can be briefly summarized by stating that it seems that a high altitude powered balloon, an unmanned and a manned free balloon would conceivably provide a means for obtaining information that might not otherwise be readily obtainable, if at all. The information is one of obvious interest to the military and there is some question as to whether or not the scope of the military effort is broad enough to satisfy all concerned. [redacted] 25X1  
 stated that an exact determination of the scope of the military effort both that in effect and that planned should be made before the Agency makes plans of its own. It would appear that the instrumentation involved is very expensive probably in the order of a quarter of a million dollars. At the date of writing there is no firm schedule for a meeting with the services concerning this matter but one will undoubtedly take place and follow-up discussions with [redacted] are planned by the undersigned. 25X1

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File: Balloon, Powered

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